

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the second paragraph on page 7, which begins with "Thus, according" with the following amended paragraph:

Thus, according to the present invention, there is provided a process for the recovery of lactic acid and products thereof from an aqueous solution containing free lactic acid and at least one lactate salt at a total concentration of at least 5%, said process comprising the steps of: (a) extracting at least 70% of the free lactic acid from said aqueous solution by contacting said solution with a water-immiscible basic amine extractant, to form a lactic acid-containing amine extract and a lactic acid-depleted, lactate salt-containing aqueous raffinate solution; (b) separating said lactic acid-containing amine extract from said depleted aqueous raffinate solution; and (c) stripping the extracted lactic acid from said extract by methods known per se, to form a solution of lactic acid and a stripped extractant.

Please replace the third paragraph on page 8, which starts with "In a further preferred" with the following amended paragraph:

In a further preferred embodiment of the invention, both the extraction of the free acid from the broth and the salt-splitting of the lactate salt left in the solution are conducted by LLE with a basic extractant. It is further preferred to use an extractant comprising a water-immiscible basic amine for both, and even more preferred to use

extractants comprising the same amine, so that the same extractant could be used, as is or after some adjustment, in both extractions.